



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE MARY M. MUSHINSKY
EIGHTY-FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4038
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
HOME: (203) 269-8378
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8500
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-8267
E-mail: Mary.Mushinsky@cga.ct.gov

CO-CHAIR
PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FINANCE REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

**Testimony of Rep. Mary Mushinsky (85th) and Rep. John Hampton in Support of
Recommendation One of the Water Summit Working Group**

**Before the Appropriations Committee, Conservation and Development
Subcommittee**

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

6:00 p.m. in Room 2C

Spurred by the latest attempt to divert water from one part of the state to another in the absence of a statewide water plan—an effort to send Farmington River water across the state to UConn—Rep. John Hampton last fall convened a group of legislators and interested stakeholders in a Water Summit. Since then, three subcommittees of water stakeholders have been meeting to develop proposed legislation and funding priorities to create a statewide water plan to submit to the General Assembly. Gov. Malloy endorsed a statewide water plan at UConn's February 3rd water conference.

The six legislators on the working group yesterday identified necessary legislation to complete a statewide water plan (attached). Step one concerns the Appropriations Committee. We recommend staffing the existing Water Planning Council with 4 analysts, housed at OPM under David LeVasseur for administrative purposes, who will finally pull together capacity, natural resources data, technology and conservation goals to create a single water planning document that all regulators (DEEP, DPH, PURA and OPM) share. Failure to staff the Water Planning Council or retain water resource experts at OPM is the principle reason there is no water plan despite more than 12 years of legislative effort. The expected cost of four analysts, including fringe, is \$500,000.

States that have adopted a statewide water plan, including several in New England, have the advantage of assuring developers that the state understands its water supply capacity

and can avoid decision making by lawsuit. We should now complete a Connecticut Water Plan just as we have made great progress in crafting a state energy plan. Please support this request.

attachment: Water Summit Working Group Proposed Legislation

Water Summit Working Group Proposed Legislation

1. Require Water Planning Council (within OPM) to create a state water plan by 1/1/17.
 - a. In creating this plan the WPC should consider existing capacity, technology and infrastructure and appropriate conservation goals.
 - b. The plan shall include a water re-use policy, conservation guidelines, incentives for consumer water conservation, protocols for data collection and analysis, and identify needed technology and infrastructure upgrades and the estimated cost of these upgrades.
 - c. Appropriations request of \$500,000 (including fringe) for four additional FTEs at OPM to work with the Water Planning Council to create the State Water Plan.
2. The WPC shall submit the plan to the Committees on Environment, Public Health, Planning & Development and Energy & Technology by 1/1/17. (The process should mirror the legislative review process for State Plan of Conservation and Development: each committee hold a joint hearing and approve it, before sending it to the full House and Senate for approval.)
3. Upon approval of the House and Senate, the WPC shall implement the plan.
4. WPC shall annually report to the committees listed above on the status of implementation.
5. Require DPH to establish the new licensure category of Licensed Water Professional in order to develop a group of trained professionals who can provide consultation services to the DPH Water Supply Planning section and other municipal and regional entities.
6. Authorize municipalities to issue orders, restricting water use when the water supply falls below a certain point (i.e. temporary prohibitions on non-essential uses like watering lawns). These restrictions ramp up as a drought worsens. DPH has a statewide model and Greenwich has implemented this type of system. (Rep. Mushinsky is getting more information.)
7. Clarify public disclosure language as it related to water monitoring and capacity (DPH will provide language.)
8. Amend Sec. 25-33a to provide eligible public drinking water systems with grants for upgrades (See attached language from DPH)

